Compline

 Advent 2021

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. **Amen**.

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of the bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

*O Lord, make haste to help us*.

Let us say together the canticle.

**Canticle 9 (The First Song of Isaiah)**

Surely it is God who saves me;

 I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,

 and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing

 from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

 give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples,

 see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,

 and this is known in all the world.

Cry out, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,

 for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**Canticle 15 (The Song of Mary)**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

 for he has looked with favor upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

 the Almighty has done great things for me,

 and holy is his Name.

He has shown mercy on those who fear him

 in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,

 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

 and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

 and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,

 for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

The promise he made to our forebearers,

 to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.

**Canticle 16 (The Song of Zechariah)**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

 he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,

 born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies,

 from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers

 and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,

 to set us free from the hands of our enemies.

Free to worship him without fear,

 holy and righteous in his sight

 all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

To give his people knowledge of salvation

 by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

 **Readings**

**Monday**

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. *Romans 13:11-12*

**Tuesday**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance for our God; to comfort all who mourn. *Isaiah 61:1-3*

**Wednesday**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." *Isaiah 40:1, 3-5*

**Thursday**

The wilderness and dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus is shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. *Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6*

**Friday**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. *Isaiah 11:6-9*

 **Advent Prayers of the People**

God of the watching, God of the waiting: Be present with us.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the watching, thank you for the symbol of the Advent wreath, whose circle reminds us that your mercy is endless, with no beginning or end. Help us to set our mind on things eternal.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the waiting, we pray for all in authority. We look forward to the day when the nations of the world walk in light and your peace is experienced by all.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the watching, we pray for this city, that we may be a community of hope and light in this world.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the waiting, we pray for all the people of your church that you may strengthen us all for the ministry you have set before us.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the watching, we pray for the sick, the friendless, and the needy. May they experience your healing presence.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the waiting, we pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

God of the watching, we pray for all those who are watching and waiting for your promised time of justice and peace for all people. Make us co-creators of your coming kingdom.

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Hasten, oh Lord, the coming of your kingdom, and grant that we, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his advent in glorious majesty. Amen.

*The officiant says one of the following collects*.

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*The following prayers may be added*.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. **Amen**.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time all nations, races, and creeds may serve you in harmony. **Amen.**

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Lord, you now have set your servant free

 to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,

 whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

A Light to enlighten the nations,

 and the glory of your people Israel.

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Jesus, Lord of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our

 preparations for Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!”

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**